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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,686	08/31/2001	Jeffrey T. Aguilera	10002629-1	2107

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EXAMINER

CHUONG, TRUC T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/944,686

Applicant(s)

AGUILERA ET AL.

Examiner

Truc T Chuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Machida (U.S. Patent No. 6,642,943 B1).

As to claim 1, Machida teaches a user interface comprising a simultaneous display of a plurality of actuatable icons, each representing a duplicator, that when actuated simultaneously actuates the respective actuated duplicator (because the screen for simultaneously displaying the system structure and the system status shown in fig. 5 (col. 12 lines 12-16), icons 301a to 301f are used to execute each of the devices such as scanners, printers, facsimile, etc. col. 9 lines 42-67 and fig. 5).

As to claim 2, Machida teaches the user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein:
the simultaneous display of the plurality of actuatable icons is a menu screen; and
each said actuatable icon is a menu item (a menu and icons, col. 9 lines 42-67, figs. 5 and 11).

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As to claim 3, Machida teaches the user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein one said duplicator is a default duplicator that, upon the selection of another said duplicator by actuation of the respective actuatable icon thereof, said default duplicator:

scans an image; records the scanned image and electronically communicates the recorded image for the duplication thereof on said another said duplicator (scanning and printing images, col. 10 lines 11-61).

As to claim 4, Machida teaches the user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein the actuation of the respective duplicators occurs in a chronological sequence selected by the user on the UI (it is possible to set an application program of image processing started by the user's own apparatus, combine the information input from the plural input sources in the designated order, col. 17 lines 45-53, col. 42 lines 36-56, and col. 46 lines 35-46).

As to claim 5, Machida teaches the user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein the actuation of the respective duplicators selected by a user on the UI occurs simultaneously (the screen for simultaneously displaying the system structure and the system status shown in FIG. 5, col. 12 lines 6-23).

As to claim 6, Machida teaches the user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein the UI displays a choice for selection of actuation of the respective duplicators chronologically, sequentially, or both (a use frequency and a use time to easily grasp the combination of the scanner and the printer, col. 37 lines 18-23, and combine the information input from the plural input sources in the designated order, col. 42 lines 36-56).

As to claim 7, it is similar in scope to claim 3 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

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As to claim 8, Machidat teaches the user interface as defined in Claim 1, wherein each said duplicator has the capability of performing one or more functions selected from the group consisting of printing, magnetic tape recording, photo imaging substrate recording, recording an optically scanned image onto a magnetic media storage device, magneto optical writing, and electromagnetic radiation broadcasting transmission (col. 9 lines 42-67, and col. 46 lines 35-46).

As to claim 9, Machida teaches the user interface as defined in Claim 8, wherein the printing is performed by a printer having the capability of performing one or more functions selected from the group consisting of dot matrix printing, thermal ink jet printing, laser printing, color printing, high quality photo reproduction, printing on substrates of varied composition, binding, collating, folding, stacking, stapling, stitching, edge trimming, and paginating (col. 9 lines 42-67, and digital camera, col. 25 lines 1-25).

As to claim 10, Machida teaches a user interface having multiple duplicator selections displayed upon a single display screen that, when actuated after selection by a user, initiates duplication tasks on each of the user selected duplicators (the icon which visually represents the data from the device selected as the data generation source on the display area, col. 44 lines 14-54).

As to claim 11, it is similar in scope to claim 8 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 12, it is similar in scope to claim 9 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 13, it is similar in scope to claim 3 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

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As to claim 14, Machida teaches a method for displaying a user interface, the method comprising:

serving a user interface for display as a menu page, the menu page having a simultaneous display of a plurality of actuatable menu items for selection by a user each representing a duplicator that, when actuated by said selection, actuates the respective duplicator (scanners, printers, facsimile, etc. col. 9 lines 42-67 and fig. 5); and

upon the actuation of one said actuatable menu item by said selection:

recording an image with a default duplicator by a scanning capability thereof; and communicating the recorded image to each duplicator corresponding to each actuatable menu item selected on the user interface for duplication on each respective duplicator (a menu and icons, col. 9 lines 42-67, figs. 5 and 11; scanning and printing images, col. 10 lines 11-61).

As to claim 15, Machida teaches the method as defined in Claim 14, wherein the recording of the image comprises recording the scanned image with a media-recording device in communication with the host computer (Plural PCs are connected to the Network, col. 4 lines 19-60).

As to claim 16, this is a method claim of system claim 3. Note the rejection of claim 3 above.

As to claims 17-18, they are method claims of system claims 8-9. Note the rejection of claims 8-9 above respectively.

As to claim 19, this is a computer program product claim of method claim 14. Note the rejection of claim 14 above.

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As to claim 20, it is similar in scope to claim 14 above; therefore, rejected under similar rationale.

As to claim 21, Machida teaches the system as defined in Claim 20, wherein:

each said duplicator and the host computer are in communication through a network (Plural PCs are connected to the Network, col. 4 lines 19-60);

the scanned image is communicated through the network for recording on a media storage device in communication with the network (col. 9 lines 43-67, and fig. 5); and

the recorded image is communicated through the network from said media storage device to each said duplicator corresponding to each actuatable menu item selected on the user interface (scanning and printing images, col. 10 lines 11-61, and image data received by the FAX unit 3006 can be temporarily stored in the HD unit, col. 9 lines 3-10).

As to claims 22-23, they are system claim of method claims 17-18. Note the rejections of claims 17-18 above respectively.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Beard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,899,136) teach Network, computers, copiers, scanners, printers, GUI, icons, and menu (cols. 3-59 and figs. 4-27).

Schlank et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,017) teach fax, scanner, printer, controls, and GUI (cols. 4-24 and figs. 6-21B).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 703-305-5753. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and alternate Fridays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. Chuong

04/29/04

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